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Great outdoor
dining Page 8



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

End of a dream



Mark Kitto, founder of *That's Shanghai*, says he has woken up from his "China dream."

His farewell article bemoans materialism and moral degredation, along with what he sees as blatant propaganda in his children's education.

But does the blame rest entirely with China?

Read more on Page 3



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Vader's men grace wedding

Members of the 501st Legion Chinese Outpost were out in full uniform at the Grace Hotel last Saturday.



Pages 4

Race in Ordos

China's Team Redbull ranked 6th in the grueling five-day 2012 Ordos International Outdoor Sports Competition.

Pioneer in education

South University of Science and Technology finally opens

By Bao Chengrong

After a year of controversy, South University of Science and Technology officially opened in Shenzhen on September 2 with a speech by university president Zhu Qingshi.

The school, best known for challenging the nation's entire system of higher education, accepted 188 freshmen this year.

Hugo Liang, 19, is one of the first 188 students to attend South University of Science and Technology since its approval by the Ministry of Education.

Although somewhat stressed about his future, he said he was excited to have such hardworking and ambitious peers.

His choice to attend South University of Science and Technology was not an easy one.

Although his scores on the National College Entrance Exam were high enough to guarantee admission into Sun Yat-Sen University, he decided to pass up the opportunity. Most of his family condemned the decision and put heavy pressure on his parents: a school with no academic achievements is a hard sell to conservative thinkers.

"But that disadvantage is also its advantage: it's something new," Liang said. "The most important reason I chose this school is because I want to be different. My future would have been boring and predictable at Sun Yat-Sen University. I chose another way."

Liang told his parents that he didn't want to feel regret passing up the opportunity. Though they eventually agreed, they warned him that going off the main track could bring him difficulties in the future.

Unlike the first batch of 45 students, who enrolled through the university's autonomy test last year, this year's student body only weighted the national exams as 60 percent of the students' admission score. The rest of the admission is based on high school performance and ability assessments.

The new freshmen come from eight provinces, and the majority are Cantonese speakers.

The change in admission came after a negotiation with the Ministry of Education in May, after which the university compromised to consider the scores of entrance exams.

The school has more than 70 teachers from renowned universities around the world, and all classes are partially taught in English.

Liang said the physics and chemistry courses use English exclusively, while other classes combine English slides with Chinese lectures. He said he had an easier time understanding his foreign teachers than he did his professors from Hong Kong.

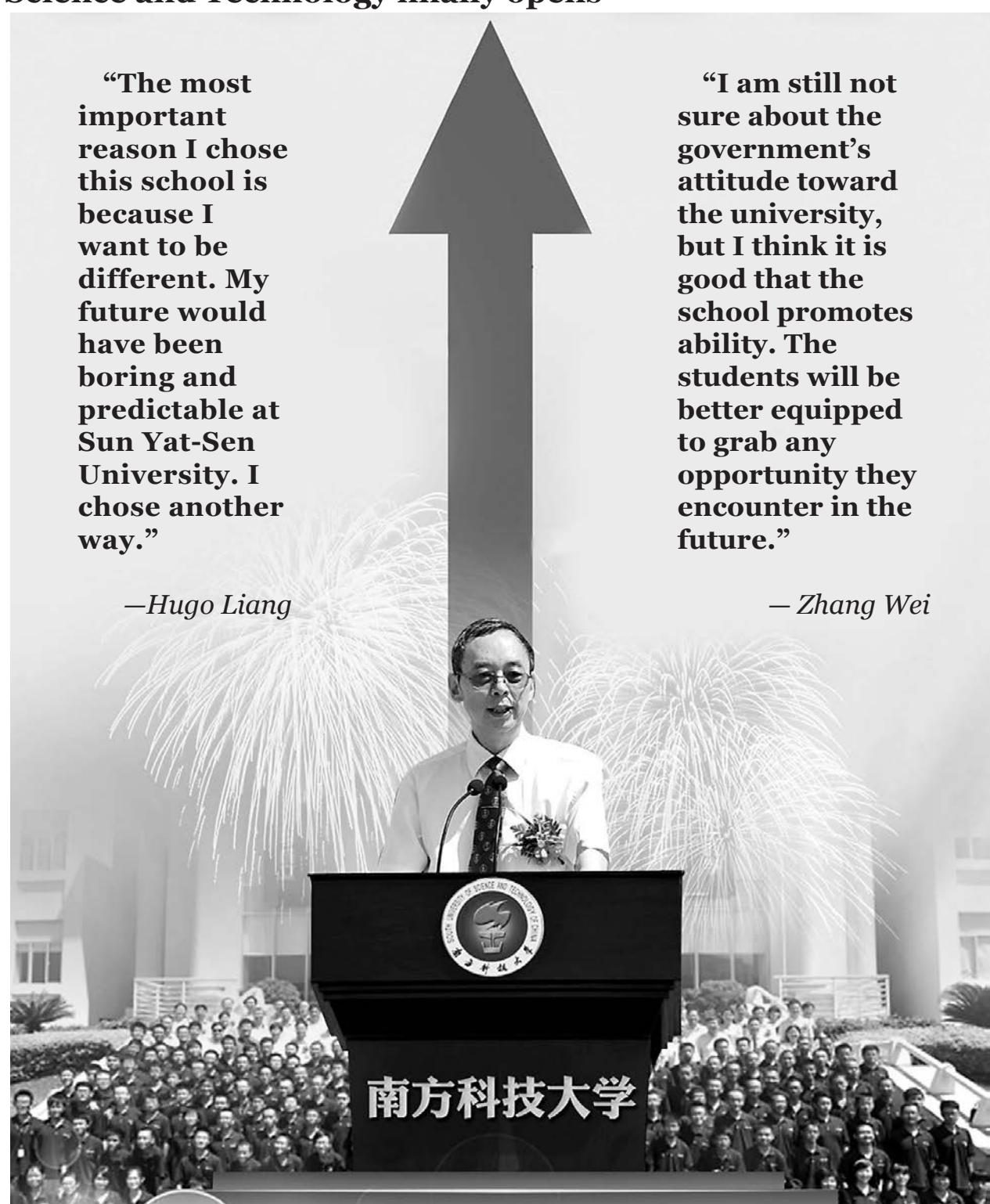
His calculus professor, surnamed Liu, began the class by sharing his literary works. Liang said many mem-

"The most important reason I chose this school is because I want to be different. My future would have been boring and predictable at Sun Yat-Sen University. I chose another way."

—Hugo Liang

"I am still not sure about the government's attitude toward the university, but I think it is good that the school promotes ability. The students will be better equipped to grab any opportunity they encounter in the future."

—Zhang Wei



Zhu Qingshi, president of South University of Science and Technology, speaks to the freshmen class.

Photo provided by CFP

bers of the science faculty are also accomplished writers and poets.

During the first semester, all students take eight required classes and have no electives. Zhu said electives become available during the students' second year once they have a clear idea about their direction.

Liang said that unlike high school, he is learning new information every day. However, the concepts are much more difficult and rote memorization is not as helpful. The professors have three evening recitations each week to help the students review and understand what was taught in class.

Zhang Wei said her son Cheng Qijia, a 17-year-old sophomore at the school, had a hard year because he took 14 elective courses during one semester. This year, he is focusing on electives that relate to his interest: electronic engineering.

Cheng is now working on a proj-

ect with 30 students that will be presented at The International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM), a premiere undergraduate Synthetic Biology competition in Hong Kong. If selected, the team may have a chance to go to MIT in November.

Zhang said she had her doubts about the new university, but as a former teacher she decided to support her son. "I am still not sure about the government's attitude toward the university, but I think it is good that the school promotes ability. The students will be better equipped to grab any opportunity they encounter in future," Zhang said.

The school's last year has been amazingly shaky.

Four of the co-founders from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology left soon after the semester began in March 2011. They disagreed with Zhu about opening the school to

students before firmly establishing its faculty and curriculum.

Three renowned physicists also left. The withdrawal of Wang Qinzhou in June last year further damaged the school's credibility.

Xiong Bingqi, a professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, said the university has to answer two serious questions about its future: what is its goal for teachers and students, and what benefits must be sacrificed for reform.

Xiong wrote that the growing number of students and teachers make it critical for the school to insist on its reforms and retain its autonomy from the Ministry of Education.

Moreover, the school has not carried out formal rules in place for its management yet. Much of its reform, and its viability as a model for other schools, may depend on how the university council sets and enforces its rules.

'China dream' over for That's Shanghai founder

By Zhao Hongyi

Mark Kitto, a graduate of London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, came to China after graduating in 1986. He left after the political unrest that marred the summer of 1989.

Kitto returned in 1996, attracted by the country's rapid economic growth and chasing dreams of fortune.

He became involved in the metal trade in Shanghai, and soon after founded the magazine *That's Shanghai*.

Although a success, the magazine was pressured to close by the Shanghai government because it was not a properly licensed publication.

The experience moved him to write *China Cuckoo*, a book in which he shared his experience and hard-learned business lessons.

Kitto later married a Chinese woman, had two kids and opened a cafe and a hotel on Mount Mogan, a tourist attraction in nearby Zhejiang Province.

He operated moganshanlodge.com, a website that introduced his hotel and the nearby scenery.

The business faltered, due in part to its remote location, the market and his relationship with the locals.

In his recent article "You'll never be Chinese," he listed all his problems, frustrations and difficulties in China, and explained why he wouldn't be coming back — a laundry list that included widespread amorality, corruption, secrecy, materialism and severely distorted life goals.

Kitto said he thinks people in China are much less happy than they were in past generations.

"If I had to choose one word to describe China in the mid-1980s it would be optimistic," he writes. But a return to the country in the mid-1990s found that communal optimism replaced by commercialism. Kitto has become disillusioned by a society he sees working only to purchase luxury goods and status.

He said that although three decades of economic reform have brought visible improvements to the country, there is still much to be desired.



Anatoly's story in Shanghai

Anatoly Belichenco, a Russian graduate of a US university, is trying to become a permanent resident of Shanghai.

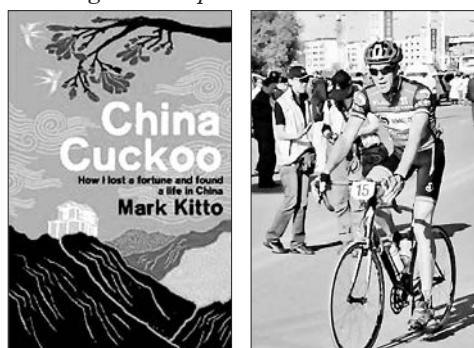
In 2009, he came to Shanghai as an engineer in a Chinese company.

Now, Anatoly's hope is to bring his wife to the city. The picture shows him and his mother purchasing fruits from a street vendor.

CFP Photo



The lodge Mark operated



Mark's Book China Cuckoo. He is an amateur cyclist



Mark, his Chinese wife and two kids
Photos provided by moganshanlodge.com

Other voices

Generous to all foreigners

It's because China has so many problems that we welcome you expats to stay, live and observe, and hopefully give us your comments and suggestions. It is a home, not a place that guarantees your success in business and life.

— Wang Xiao, Beijing resident
Come better prepared

A proverb says "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." Make the Chinese — both officials and normal individuals — your friends and neighbors and you'll feel more comfortable.

— Ruan Dajie, society.org
Chinese society is civilized

In an earlier article Mark attributed his disappointing business loss to Chinese society being "uncivilized."

But the ethical virtues he didn't find — like honesty, keeping your word, treating foreigners fairly — are part of Chinese society. It is "civilized" but not "Christian."

— John Delius, commenter,
prospectmagazine.co.uk

Comments

Governance style to blame

The classic novel *Dream of the Red Chamber* teaches much about China's traditional system of family management.

A rich family eventually crumbled due to the dark side of Chinese culture: corruption, counterfeiting, extravagance and secrecy.

Unfortunately, the government hasn't learned that some dark elements of the past are worth abandoning.

I support furthering our reforms, especially political reforms, to ensure continued economic development.

— Ye Maowei,

freelancer at news.sina.com

Don't blame the system

You're leaving China because you were not successful and your business was not sustainable.

Feel free to blame your inability to build *guanxi* with the local government or to attract local customers instead of noisy Westerners with little understanding of the culture.

It's an end of a chapter in your book. Don't blame the people, the culture and the environment which enabled you to get where you are.

— Ricky Sjoquist, expat in Beijing
The rich are fleeing too

After three decades of economic reform, China is the world's second largest economy. At least in numbers.

But its average GDP — only \$5,400 in 2011 — paints a far different picture. Going by GDP, China ranks 90th of 180 countries.

A 2011 poll of millionaires in 18 cities by Rupert Hoogewerf found 14 percent have emigrated or are in the process of emigrating, and 46 percent are considering leaving.

This confirms the theory of Samuel Huntington, a US scholar, who said the country would face tremendous challenges once its average per capita GDP surpassed \$3,000.

— Lü Xiaobo,
freelancer at the New York Times
Fix it or shut up!

It's ironic that he is leaving right after foreigners are for the first time being included in the country's pension and medical insurance system.

There are plenty of successful businesses run by foreigners. They have it easy, because they can always flee to another country while locals are left with no route of escape.

If it were possible to gain Chinese citizenship, I seriously doubt Mark would give up his UK passport to become a Chinese citizen. He doesn't want to be Chinese.

This article should have been titled: "I will never become Chinese," not "You'll never be Chinese."

— Andy Lundberg, commentator

Redbull ranks 6th

Dream team meets goal in Ordos competition



By Wang Xiaoxiao

The 2012 Ordos International Outdoor Sports Competition was held August 28 to September 1 in Kangbashi New Area, Ordos, Inner Mongolia.

Team Seagate from New Zealand finished first in the competition with a time of 31 hours, 57 minutes and 26 seconds.

Team Redbull from China ranked sixth, finishing in 33 hours, 35 minutes and 48 seconds – China's best showing to date.

The challenge spanned 368 kilometers and offered a cash prize of \$200,000. The prize purse attracted top-ranked teams from home and abroad, including World Championships winner Team Thule Adventure and Adventure Sport NZ, which won the Abu Dhabi Adventure Challenge in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Team Redbull – Yang Jiagen, Pai Zula, Ba Temengkai, and Qi Ranran – performed the best out of all Chinese participants.

The 27-year-old Yang, holder of the world record for 100-kilometer endurance runs, led the team. Pai, 29, is a skilled cyclist with many domestic mountain biking and road race titles. Ba, 26, has won two domestic outdoor sports championships in 2011 and 2012.

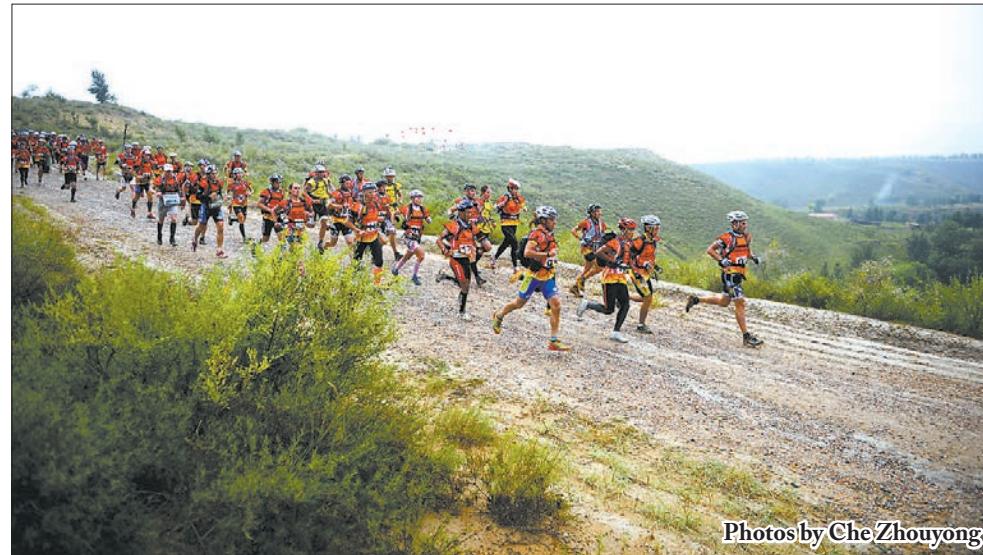
Qi, the team's female member, is a graduate student at China University of Geosciences and one of the top-ranked female outdoor sports athletes in the country.

"I feel comfortable with them around in the competition," she said. "All I need is to concentrate on the game since they take care of other things like preparing the equipment and carrying the bike."

The teams competed for five days in desert running, mountain-biking, kayaking, horse riding and rappelling.

The first stage of the competition was a 60-kilometer kayak course, followed by 22 kilometers of mountain-biking and 52 kilometers of desert running.

Kayaking was Team Redbull's weak point. The members



Photos by Che Zhouyong

had frequent steering problems and caused the kayak to capsize. The members had to swim to the bank and start over.

"It was my first time swimming in the Yellow River," Pai joked of their kayaking mistake. The members finished the kayaking event 40 minutes after the first team, ranking fourteenth.

They caught up with the other teams in the mountain-biking and desert off-road race. During these events, they had several GPS errors that caused them to go off the route. They worked fast to finish the last 12 kilometers of desert hiking before breaking camp.

The team ended the day at 9th place.

On the next day, Team Redbull passed another four teams in the last 35 kilometers of desert running, ending up 6th in the first stage of the competition.

The second stage, a 100-kilometer road race, began on a windy day. Team

Redbull rushed to the top of the ranks at the very beginning, becoming part of the first riding group with Team Courage Gear from Australia, who they rode against for the next 80 kilometers.

"If there is a team in front of us, we catch up and ride with them," Yang said. "It's a tactic that can save effort for both teams."

But Yang and his teammates hadn't realized that cycling was Team Courage Gear's weak point. Redbull led the entire race and ended up exerting too much strength.

In the last 20 kilometers, Team Redbull started to speed up towards the finishing line, leaving behind Team Courage Gear. But the other seven teams began to catch up.

"Groups have an advantage – it saves effort when sprinting," Qi said. "It's very exhausting for us to ride in the front alone. We knew that they would catch up."

Nine teams crossed the finish line at almost the same time. The four-kilometer running after the cycling race made no difference in the ranking. Team Redbull maintained its 6th place.

The fourth stage of the competition was relatively easy, which made stage three the deciding event. All participating teams did their best.

The day began with an 18-kilometer cross-country run. The rainy day worsened Qi's knee injury. "Luckily, there was no running in the previous stage," Qi said. The injury relapsed early in the event, and she had to use cold compresses and bandages to relieve the pain.

After the run was a 43-kilometer mountain bike race and another 20 kilometers of kayaking.

The rain made the mountain road muddy and difficult to ride on. Many competitors had to walk or carry their bikes.

The four paddled and shivered as it rained harder. The foreign teams' kayaking skills were better, and Team Redbull was soon passed by several other competitors.

The team finished 50 minutes ahead of the seventh-place team, maintaining its position.

The final stage included a 33-kilometer bicycle race and 10-kilometer kayaking course. Organizers sent them through an urban area so spectators could enjoy the show. However, the rain and drop in temperature kept the crowds away.

Qi's knee began acting up again, and after treating it she continued to bike with the help of her teammate Pai.

The rain and cold increased the competitors' calorie use, and Pai said his stomach was growling during the last three kilometers of kayaking.

"We encountered bad weather in past challenges, but never anything this cold," Yang said. "Overall our team performed well and we reached the goal set before the competition. If we made fewer mistakes, we could have placed one or two higher in the ranking."

Yang said all the members were excellent racers, and that with more training they could be a dream team for outdoor sports.

At the end of the month, Team Redbull will go to Xinjiang to participate in a desert marathon. In October, they will attend the Wulong International Mountain Outdoor Sports Open.

(Translated by Niu Chen)

Protect ancient architecture through tourism

By Liu Xiaochan

Laurence Brahm, who has served as an economic advisor for Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Mongolia and China over the last 20 years, spoke about the implications and future of global activism and sustainable tourism at Face Bar on Wednesday evening.

The activity was part of international travel agency WildChina's latest installment of "Where the Wild Things Are: A WildChina Series."

Brahm spoke about how the past serves the present in tourism, which means calling on people to protect old buildings so that guests can see ethnic heritage and the culture of this country.

"We can use the tourism industry to do environmental protection as well," he said. "This is a very important point."

In European countries, ancient buildings are incorporated into people's modern lives. Banks, shops and restaurants have opened in old structures. Many European countries have laws that protect old buildings, and people have a strong commitment to cultural protection.

According to China Construction News, Europe has few skyscrapers, as countries have chosen to retain city squares and slate pavements from hundreds of years ago.

"This pattern has been in



A sustainable tourism talk with Laurence Brahm, September 2012.

Photo by Anna Bosco of WildChina

use throughout the whole of Europe for several hundred years," Brahm said. "In their opinion, old buildings are the most valuable things. It is also for tourism."

"Our aim is to protect traditional architecture and traditional technology through profit goals. Profitable businesses can attract more people to get into the ranks of protection because business belongs to sustainable development."

Large swathes of buildings have been destroyed as a result of Beijing's devel-

opment. The areas that are protected include Yonghegong Lama Temple, Nanluogu Xiang and Houhai.

"Although we are not an NGO, we can do good business," said Brahm, who started Beijing's first courtyard hotel and restaurant at Dongsi. "Through making money, we can also protect a lot."

Face Bar is an example. Set in an old building, Brahm said it was built without a single nail, as was traditional during the Ming Dynasty. It's an antique home but suitable

for modern business.

"Now, there are many people running businesses as hotels, restaurants, travel agencies or crafts within Dongsi's courtyards," Brahm said. "Such set-ups can also benefit traditional crafts, which are inherited and passed along to relatives or from master to apprentice."

Brahm is very happy to see more and more people in Dongcheng and Xicheng districts starting to support courtyard and hutong protection.

"Old architecture is the root of a country's culture,"

he said. "Protecting it is for the people of the present and the future, and the sustainable development of culture. It's very useful for foreigners to learn about this kind of Chinese culture when visiting."

Brahm, who is from Hawaii and has been in China for more than 20 years, founded Shambhala Serai, a sustainable cultural and ecotourism boutique hotel group in 2005. The group has four hotels in Tibet and two hotels and one restaurant in Beijing.

501 gathers diehard Star War fans

By Annie Wei

A Star Wars-themed wedding ceremony hosted at Grace Hotel last Saturday had its highlight when the 501st Legion Chinese Outpost – the Chinese branch of a popular worldwide Star Wars club – performed a group dance they had practiced for two months.

Although the bride and groom's friends dressed up according to the theme requested – with most people in Jedi-style – the 501st Legion's apparel gave the venue a spaceship atmosphere.

Wearing screen-accurate replicas of storm trooper armor, Imperial officers' uniforms and clone warrior armor is a must for 501st Legion members.

The wedding date also



On the Great Wall, July 2011

Photo provided by 501st Legion Chinese Outpost

marked the three-year anniversary of China 501st Legion. A dozen members flew in from Shanghai and Chengdu and held their own celebration in 798 Art Zone.

"All over the world, there are 6,000 active members of the 501st Legion, and China has 28 who have been recognized by the 501st headquarters and China branch,"

said Ding Lei, a 30-something Chinese man who works in finance.

The idea of having a 501st Legion China Post came naturally, Ding said. The first two members, Song Yifang and Zhang Fan, shared a passion for Star Wars and founded the 501st Legion. Later they learned that anyone can apply to establish a local troop under the American headquarters, so they started the Chinese mainland's first outpost in 2008.

Ding said there are 10 members in Beijing. "We don't just chat about *Star Wars*. We are close friends who talk about everything."

"As long as you have equipped yourself with the right uniform, are inter-

ested in *Star Wars* and are happy to do charity work, you are in," Ding said.

The uniform is not cheap. Take the one that bride Brooke Zheng bought for her husband as the groom suit: the black uniform that Darth Vader wears was ordered from a UK website for more than 10,000 yuan.

Ding said that they do not encourage new members to buy uniforms or equipment from eBay or Taobao because those aren't up to standards.

The troop gathers for a charitable activity once or twice a year, which could mean performances.

Anyone interested can visit the group's website, cn501st.com/bbs.

Artist in the mountains

By Charles Zhu

Wang Yidong's oil paintings usually strike viewers as purely Chinese, which is strange considering oil is a predominantly Western form of art. One feels endeared, familiar and moved.

These are the exact reactions that Wang seeks.

Wang, 57, is a leading contemporary Chinese artist of realism, with artistic roots in the rolling Yimeng Mountains of southeast Shandong Province, where he was born and raised. He has an extraordinary knack for local artistic nuances, such as depicting loose, baggy cotton-padded coats and the brilliant reds of New Year celebrations. He masterfully mixes traditional Chinese culture with Western art elements, yet retains Chinese characteristics in the way he depicts the psychology of his subjects, particularly girls.

Wang gained renown when he held a solo exhibition at the Hefner Collection in New York in 1987, then proceeded to show his work in Singapore, France, Italy and Japan in the following years. His oeuvre, *Ancient Mountain Village*, is on permanent display at the China National Gallery of Arts.

Critics say that Wang has a style that is all his own from translating Chinese aesthetics into oil painting. He instills an extraordinary amount of charm and dynamism into his subjects, particularly beautiful country girls. The employment of gold, white, black and red colors creates strong artistic effects of contrast by bringing out the inner beauty of his figures. These colors offer an impression of purity.

Wang took an unlikely path into art. He was a lathe turner at a factory in Yiyuan in the early 1970s when, one day, recruiters from the provincial art school

came to his county. They had tested some applicants and felt quite disappointed. Wang, on the spot, was asked to draw a sketch, which turned out to be good enough to grant him admittance into the provincial school of fine arts in 1972. He entered the National Academy of Fine Arts in 1978 and upon graduation in 1982 began teaching at the academy.

In the mid-1980s, an American

connoisseur happened to see one of his oils and wanted to buy it.

Wang puritanically declined to sell his works. The American tried a different tactic, asking him if he wished to go to the US. At first, Wang thought it was a joke. Only upon gaining assurances of the sincerity of the invitation did he accept the trip. He toured Ameri-

can art museums and galleries and studied American classic and contemporary art as a visiting scholar.

After he returned from the US, he was a mature artist. In *The Rain in Mount Meng*, he tried to apply big

patches of charcoal black and brilliant Chinese reds. In portraying Chinese girls in *Mountain Magpie*, *Letter from the Family* and *Early Snow*, he attached greater importance to the reserved, gentle, self-contained virtues of personality.

"You may think that the cotton-padded coat is too baggy and doesn't show body lines," he said. "However, I like it because it is the Chinese lan-



Letter, oil painting

guage of art."

A Date with the Spring is as remarkable for its brushwork as it is for its delicate contrast of brilliant reds with the snow whites and the charcoal blacks.

Some art critics compare Wang's pictures with old vintage works and say that his *Second Uncle Liu* and *Iron Ball* are reminiscent of Raphael.

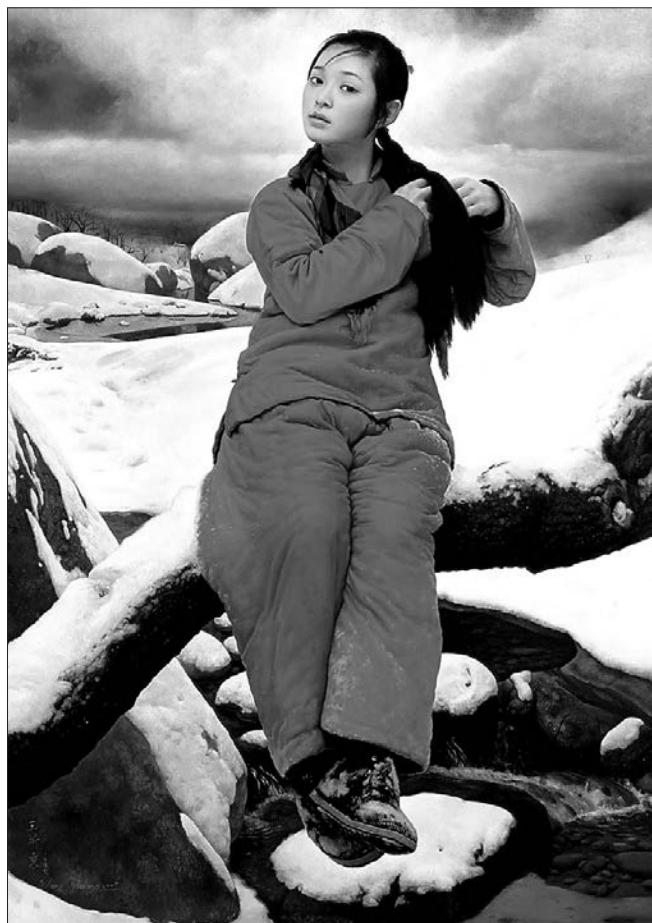
Wang is driven by his quest for realism. In the 26 years as a professor at the Chinese Academy of Arts, he has adhered to this concept. Some European connoisseurs have even visited him at his home to look at his pictures of Chinese women in red coats. They have expressed interest in "the oriental art and the oriental female simplicity and human kindness expressed in the art."

Wang's infatuation with country life in the Yimeng mountainous area is motivated by his love for his birthplace and the simple farmers there.

"As I now live in the city, every time I go there, I find beauty that others are fairly accustomed to," he said. Whenever he gets an idea for a picture, he lets the idea germinate for years, and when he finally starts to paint, "it's like the eruption of a volcano," he said.



Wedding Night, oil painting



A Date with the Spring, oil painting



Village Woman, oil painting

New items for early autumn

By Annie Wei

Autumn has arrived, and with it, plummeting temperatures. It's time to shop for something warm.



Reebok Hello Kitty series

Great for people who enjoy jogging. This time of year is the perfect time to do it.

Where: Joy City, 131 Xidan Bei Avenue, Xicheng District

Open: 10 am – 9 pm
Tel: 6651 7777



Leopard underwear

Leopard patterns have been popular for years on cardigans, scarves, handbags and flat shoes. Why not underwear? These leopard-print undies from the brand Aimer will have you feeling sexy.

Where: Aimer counter, 1 F, Grand Pacific Mall, 133 Xidan Bei Avenue, Xicheng District
Open: 10 am – 9 pm
Tel: 6612 6888



Swarovski's green crystal earrings

Accessories like necklaces or earrings can help someone finish the look they're after. Big green crystal pendant earrings have a timeless elegance to them, and are great when paired with evening dresses. Perfect for balls or concerts.

Where: Ground floor, Oriental Plaza, 1 Dongchang'an Jie, Dongcheng District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 8518 6363

CFP Photos



Zara's online store launch

Fashion chain stores like Zara, Mango and H&M offer convenient solutions to help any customer, even those who have no time or just hate visiting stores, catch up with the latest styles.

Sit in front of a laptop, browse Zara's website and click: it's that easy to shop.

Shipping is free for purchases of at least 299 yuan.

Quite a few nice things are available. We like the simple cut, white wool coat, 799 yuan. You can zoom in on the photos and have a close look at the material. For each product, you can click to check the material and laundry details. We also like its skinny leather pants, 2,799 yuan, which are a timeless piece.

Zara apparel is priced to compete with many Taobao vendors and comes with a guaranteed refund.

Products are divided into categories, such as men's and children's wear.

Website: zara.cn

Photo provided by zara.cn

Pearson Longman English World

be cannot

- Teachers *are* cannot help those students.
- Teachers *cannot* help those students.



- The modal comes first in the verb group, so 'are' is incorrect and not needed here.
- 'Be able to' means the same as 'can':
- Teachers *are not able to* help those students.

can + Adj

- I hope my life *can ^ as exciting as* hers.
- I hope my life *can be as exciting as* hers.



- As a modal, 'can' must be followed by a bare infinitive main verb.
- It needs the link verb 'be' before adjectives.

Exercise

Choose the correct words:

Choose the correct words:

1. The lectures can very boring.
2. They couldn't across the road in the traffic.

Answers: 1. be 2. go / get

Book title:

Common English Errors in Hong Kong (New Edition) 是一本专门为香港初、中级英文水平的学生所编写的自学教材。本书指出并纠正大量本地学生所常犯的英文文法与字法使用上的错误，并附有非常生动活泼的插图，深受青少年学生的青睐。

资料来源: Language Leader (Pre-intermediate) by Ian Lebeau and Gareth Rees (Pearson Longman)

Dine in autumn's good weather



Corner Coffee's terrace
Photos by Guo Yao



Coffee, starting at 25 yuan

Enjoy coffee on an ancient city wall

By Guo Yao

After a year of soft operations, Corner Coffee officially opened in May.

Owner Ni Bin, born and raised in Beijing, has a strong love for the city's ancient architecture and relics. She chose a unique location, where customers can experience an ancient city view inside South Second Ring Road.

Ni said the location brought her back to her childhood days when

she could hear bells from the Beijing Railway Station.

The coffee is made from quality Columbia beans. Espressos start at 25 yuan. Lattes and cappuccinos cost 35 yuan. Mocha and caramel macchiato are both 38 yuan.

Food options are simple and include chicken ciabatta (38 yuan), egg and cheese croissant (35 yuan), tuna sandwich (35 yuan) and bacon mushroom ciabatta (38 yuan).

Ni said that the ingredients are all

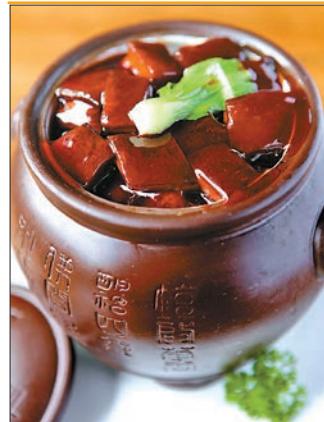
from an organic farm in Miyun District.

To meet the demand of foreigners who want to try Chinese food while enjoying a cup of coffee, homemade dumplings (35 yuan for beef and veggie) and zhajiangmian, fried bean sauce noodles, (25 yuan) are offered.

Corner Coffee

Where: 9 Chongwenmen Dong Dajie (inside Ming Dynasty City Wall)

Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6528 4601



Caramel pork with chestnut and quail's egg, 98 yuan

Nuage's new feast for autumn

By Annie Wei

The restaurant Nuage is known for its Vietnamese cuisine, antique decoration and a nice rooftop terrace with a view of Houhai.

Three years ago, it decided to devote its first floor to Shandong cuisine, which is where many Beijing dishes originated.

Since Shandong Province has a wide coastline and is also divided by the Yellow River, Shandong cuisine is rich in seafood and fish.

To test if a Shandong restaurant is authentic, try its braised mullet "egg" (38 yuan). It's a classic Shandong dish made of very thin curls sliced from black mullet egg glands. The glands should be soft and smooth, cooked in a clear pork bone stock thickened with flour and seasoned with black pepper. In most Shandong restaurants, this dish is

garnished with chopped coriander stems and leaves, which is how it should be done.

The deep-fried meatballs (68 yuan) are a must. These even-sized, gold nuggets are tender and delicious, with a strong meat aroma.

If you plan to spend more, try the braised sea cucumber (388 yuan), a famous Shandong dish with scallions, or the highly nourishing stewed pigeon with Chinese herbs (498 yuan).

Ganshao dahuanyu (68 yuan for bass and 128 yuan for 500 grams of mandarin fish), Yellow River carp, is also a signature Shandong dish. The fish is skillfully cut so it blooms like a flower when deep-fried. It is crispy on the outside and tender on the inside and smothered with sweet and sour sauce. Also recommended is zaoliu sanbai (58 yuan), fish, chicken and bamboo shoots braised in a sauce made from fermented wine.

For the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival, Nuage has a special healthy set menu catering to eight to 10 diners per table (starting from 2,888 yuan). It includes six starters, two cold dishes, 10 classic dishes and two desserts. Anyone interested should order a day in advance.

Nuage

Where: 22 Qianhai Dongyan, Houhai area, Xicheng District
Open: 11 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6401 9581



Braised sea cucumber, 388 yuan

Photos provided by Nuage

By Annie Wei

At the end of a humid summer, Beijing enters its best season – fall – with blue skies and breezy air.

Beijing Today recommends these places with outdoor terraces to go for an evening meal.

Homey French food near Solana

By Annie Wei

As long as you don't try to drive there, Solana can be nice on the weekends: there's a cinema, apparel stores like H&M or Zara, and a fountain.

But diners have complained that the restaurants are too expensive, which is why many prefer the nearby Lucky Street.

We recommend Chef Julian, a newly opened French home-style restaurant.

The food is delicious. The menu doesn't have a lot of options, but 130 yuan gets you an appetizer, main and dessert.

For starters, you can choose a quiche Lorraine, quiche salmon, ficelle picarde or hot goat cheese salad with honey. We tried the pan-fried foie gras in fig sauce (extra 30 yuan), with sweet roasted fig and tender foie gras.

The main dish comes in a big serving. We had the duck confit (extra 20 yuan) and beef bourguignon. The side dishes including French fries and baked potatoes were huge – and probably should've been replaced with vegetables.

Dessert includes tiramisu, chocolate fondant with vanilla cream, fruit charlotte made of milk or strawberries and cream.

The staff is friendly, though the lighting is a bit too bright.

Chef Julian

Where: Haoyun Jie, Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am – 10 pm



Fruit charlotte Photos by Y.SL



Pan-fried foie gras in fig sauce